

March 2, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petitions for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Public, Educational and Governmental Access Channels, MB Docket No. 09-13, CSR 8126 (ACM et al.), CRS 8127 (City of Lansing, MI), and CSR 8128 (City of Dearborn, MI et al.)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a community which is fully vested in the value of access television, the Village of Glenview urges the Commission to grant the three above-mentioned petitions concerning public, educational and governmental ("PEG") Access channels. We are concerned about the preservation of PEG Access as a needed community resource. In these comments we specifically address the role of PEG channels in our community, and the importance of preventing companies from inhibiting access to these channels.

Our government access channel Glenview Television offers a wide variety of educational, public safety, and public service programming. Glenview cablecasts all of its Village Board and Plan Commission meetings in addition to five hours of original programming each week. Furthermore, our electronic community bulletin board serves as the only communications vehicle for several area non-profit groups because it is a free service provided by the Village of Glenview. Our programming is unique and serves our resident's local interest and needs to be readily accessible to viewers, not placed in a format, which is inferior and less accessible than other channels.

Our experience of AT&T's PEG product confirms many of the deficiencies identified in ACM et al, CSR-2186. As detailed in that Petition, AT&T's PEG product is inferior to broadcast channels carried on AT&T's U-verse system in virtually every way that matters to a viewer. If PEG channels are made less accessible, and are deprived of basic functions viewers have come to expect, many subscribers we now reach will not receive valuable information. It's unacceptable with the technological advances of the 21st Century that local residents would be deprived of easy access to information about the education of our children, dissemination of health information, facilitation of job placement, and emergency alerts.

The FCC's policy goals of fostering localism and diversity in media are realized at the local level

through PEG channels, particularly in light of the decreasing amount of local programming available on broadcast and other commercial channels. We look to the FCC to rule decisively in this matter to prevent inferior and discriminatory treatment of PEG channels to the detriment of the community at large.

In the past few years the Village of Glenview experience three unprecedented weather events. At times when this community was in crisis, our government access channel (GVTv) allowed local officials and emergency management experts to effectively communicate much needed information to our residents. Even long after the storms, we continued with updates on federal assistance programs and the Village's efforts to clean up the debris. The people of Glenview need our local access channel more than ever before. Only our local access channels have the time and resources to address the needs and disseminate the information that is critical to the people who reside within our borders. Please make AT&T abide by state requirements to treat access channels equivalent to commercial channels.

Although Glenview Television is not carried on the AT&T system, several of our residents which live on the boarder with the Village of Northbrook are able to receive AT&T. Village staff has tried to help residents navigate the channel 99 application over the phone with little success.

The Village of Glenview feels that PEG channels are a critical and irreplaceable resource for our community. If the Commission fails to prevent the industry practices at issue in these petitions, we have little doubt that other operators might also adopt approaches that marginalize and therefore effectively eliminate PEG access. We therefore strongly urge the Commission to grant all three petitions.

Sincerely,

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